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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, You know all about us. You know when we sit down and when we rise up. You know when we sin and when we obey. Give us Your Holy Spirit to purge us from every wrong thing, that our lives will glorify You.

Today, guide the steps of our lawmakers. Help them to run when they can, to walk when they ought, and to wait when they must. Open their minds to discern Your will and make them ready to do it. In everything, do through them what is best for our Nation and the advancement of Your kingdom in our world.

We pray in the Redeemer's Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 14, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following the remarks of Senator MCCONNELL and myself, there will be a period of morning business for up to an hour. Senators will be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the exception of Senator FEINSTEIN, who will control the full 30 minutes on the Democratic side. The next 30 minutes will be under the control of the Republicans. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the credit card legislation.

Last evening, I filed cloture on the substitute amendment and on the underlying bill. That was under rule XXII. Because of that, the filing deadline for germane first-degree amendments is at 1 p.m. today. I hope we can reach agreement to have that cloture vote today. It is scheduled for the morning. If we can't do it in the morning, we will have to do it Tuesday morning because of the Senate schedule. If we complete that cloture vote tonight, we would be able to finish the germane amendments Tuesday morning and move on to other matters we have to do next week before we take our Memorial Day recess. We want to be able to leave here, if at all possible, on Thursday of next week. People have things scheduled. But we may have to work into Friday. I hope not. I hope we

don't have to work into Saturday. But we have to do this credit card legislation, the financial fraud. We have been in contact with Republicans. They will have a number of amendments. They want it to come back from the House. There will be some amendments in order. I have spoken to the Republican leader on that, and they are going to try to get us those amendments as quickly as possible. Hopefully this morning we can set that up to complete that legislation quickly.

Then, of course, we have to do the supplemental appropriations bill. I hope that is not going to be controversial. It will be marked up in the Senate today, and then we will have the ability to look at what the House and Senate did before it comes to the floor here.

There are a number of issues that will be discussed. I hope there aren't any that should take a lot of time, but we will see.

That is our workload this work period. I hope we can work through this, as much as we can get done today. If not, we can complete a lot of the work on tomorrow and Monday even though there will be no votes on those days.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

GUANTANAMO

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, last night we learned that the supplemental war spending bill the Senate will take up contains \$80 million to be used for closing Guantanamo. But the language of the bill acknowledges what Republicans have been saying for months: The administration has no plan to safely close this secure detention facility.

Closing Guantanamo without a safe alternative would be irresponsible,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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